



*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Hazardous Waste Bureau*



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**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 18-03**

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO  
June 21, 2018**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND INTENT TO APPROVE A PERMIT  
MODIFICATION TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE/HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE  
BASE'S RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT PERMIT  
EPA ID# NM6572124422**

Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 *et seq.*, NMSA 1978, as amended) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits, closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments. Under this authority, NMED intends to approve, pending public input into this decision, a Class 3 permit modification to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Permit (the Permit) issued to the United States Air Force/Holloman Air Force Base (the Permittee) to change the status of 12 Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern from Corrective Action Required to Corrective Action Complete.

Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) is located in south central New Mexico, in the north-central part of Otero County, approximately 75 miles north-northeast of El Paso, Texas. HAFB has a population of approximately 3,500 (U.S. Census, 2010) and occupies approximately 59,830 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 17 South, Range 8 East. The U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range testing facilities and White Sands National Monument occupy additional land extending north and west from the base. Private and publicly-owned lands border the remainder of HAFB. The major highway servicing HAFB is U.S. Highway 70, which runs southwest from the town of Alamogordo and separates HAFB from publicly-owned lands to the south. The City of Alamogordo is located approximately seven miles east of the base.

HAFB was first established in 1942 as Alamogordo Army Air Field (AAF). From 1942 through 1945, Alamogordo AAF served as the training grounds for over 20 different flight groups, flying primarily B-17s, B-24s, and B-29s. In 1947, Air Materiel Command announced the air field would be its primary site for the testing and development of un-manned aircraft, guided missiles, and other research programs. On January 13, 1948, the Alamogordo installation was renamed Holloman Air Force Base. In 1968, the 49<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing arrived at HAFB and has remained to the present. Today, HAFB also serves as a training location for the German Air Force Tactical Training Center.

The Permittee is located at the following address: Department of the Air Force, Headquarters, 49<sup>th</sup> Wing, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, 88330. The Permittee's primary contact for the action is: Mr. Adam Kusmak, Chief, Installation Management Flight, 49 CES/CEI, 550 Tabosa Avenue, Holloman AFB, NM, 88330.

At HAFB, investigation and remediation of Solid Waste Management Units/Areas of Concern (SWMUs/AOCs) is conducted under a RCRA Permit. The Permit was issued in 1991, became effective on September 25, 1991, and was reissued on February 24, 2004. A Permit renewal application was submitted to NMED on February 26, 2015 and is currently under review. Table A of Appendix 4-A of the Permit identifies SWMUs/AOCs at the facility requiring corrective action. Table B of Appendix 4-A of the Permit identifies SWMUs/AOCs with corrective action complete (CAC) without controls. Table C of Appendix 4-A of the Permit identifies SWMUs/AOCs with CAC with controls. Initially, 265 potential SWMUs/AOCs were listed on Table A. Currently, 38 sites remain on Table A. The remaining sites have been transferred through the permit modification process to Table B or Table C.

If approved, a proposed Class 3 permit modification would grant CAC without controls status for eight SWMUs/AOCs and move these sites from Table A to Table B. It would also grant CAC with controls status for three SWMUs and move these sites from Table A to Table C. In addition, one site, AOC-PRI-A, is proposed to remain on Table B, where it currently resides.

NMED's approval of the twelve SWMUs/AOCs proposed for CAC by the Permittee is on the basis that either no release to the environment has occurred or is likely to occur in the future from the SWMU/AOC, or the SWMU/AOC has been characterized or remediated in accordance with current applicable state and/or federal regulations, and the available data indicate that contaminants do not pose an unacceptable level of risk under current and projected future land use.

#### **PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

The Administrative Record for this proposed action consists of the HAFB Permit Modification Request, Statement of Basis, this Public Notice, the draft Permit that consists of the proposed Tables A, B and C, and the referenced supporting documentation. The Administrative Record may be reviewed at the following location during the public comment period with prior appointment.

NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
(505) 476-6000  
Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Contact: Pam Allen  
(505) 476-6000

A copy of the Statement of Basis, the Public Notice, and the draft Permit, that consists of the proposed Tables A, B and C, are also available electronically on the NMED website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/hafb> under No Further Action/Corrective Action Complete. To obtain a copy of the Administrative Record or a portion thereof, in addition to further information, please contact Ms. Pam Allen at (505) 476-6064, or at the Santa Fe address given above. NMED will provide copies, or portions thereof, of the administrative record at a cost to the requestor.

NMED issues this public notice on **June 21, 2018** to announce the beginning of a 60-day comment period that will end at **5:00 p.m., August 20, 2018**. Any person who wishes to comment on this action or request a public hearing should submit written or electronic mail (e-mail) comment(s) with

the commenter's name and address to the address below. Only comments and/or requests received on or before **5:00 p.m., August 20, 2018** will be considered.

The NMED contact to submit comments/requests or for additional information is:

Dave Cobrain, Program Manager  
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Or via e-mail: dave.cobrain@state.nm.us  
Ref: Holloman AFB – 12 SWMUs/AOCs Corrective Action Complete

Written comments must be based on the administrative record. Documents in the administrative record need not be re-submitted if expressly referenced by the commenter. Requests for a public hearing shall provide: (1) a clear and concise factual statement of the nature and scope of the interest of the person requesting the hearing; (2) the name and address of all persons whom the requestor represents; (3) a statement of any objections to the proposed action, including specific references; and (4) a statement of the issues which such persons propose to raise for consideration at the hearing. Written comment and requests for Public Hearing must be filed with Mr. Dave Cobrain on or before **5:00 p.m., August 20, 2018**. The NMED will provide a thirty (30) day notice of a public hearing, if scheduled.

The NMED must ensure that the approved final Permit is consistent with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. All written comments submitted on the draft Permit will become part of the administrative record, will be considered in formulating a final decision, and may cause the draft Permit to be modified. NMED will respond in writing to all significant public comment. The response will specify which provisions, if any, of the draft Permit have been changed in the final Permit decision, and the reasons for the change. This response will also be posted on the NMED website in addition to NMED notifying all persons providing written comments.

After consideration of all written public comments received, NMED will issue, or modify and issue, the Permit. If NMED modifies and issues the Permit, the Permittee shall be provided by mail a copy of the modified Permit and a detailed written statement of reasons for the modifications. The NMED Secretary will make the final Permit decision publicly available and shall notify the Permittee by certified mail. The Secretary's decision shall constitute a final agency decision and may be appealed as provided by the Hazardous Waste Act. All persons that provided written comments, or who requested notification in writing, will be notified of the final decision by mail.

The final decision will become effective thirty days after service of the decision, unless a later date is specified or review is requested under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, 20.4.1 NMAC, Section 901.F, *Hearings*.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any person with a disability requiring assistance or auxiliary aid to participate in this process should contact Donna Wright no less than 15 days prior to the end of the public comment period at the following address: New Mexico Environment Department, P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-6110, (505) 827-9769. TDD or TDY users please access Ms. Wright's number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1 (800) 659-8331.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kristine Pintado, Non-Discrimination Coordinator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
(505) 827-2855  
[NMED.NDC@state.nm.us](mailto:NMED.NDC@state.nm.us)

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above or visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page/> to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.